(v) Ministry of Home Affairs has written to all the State Governments to lend a helping hand to the field formations to curb poaching and illegal trade in wildlife.

(3) International level:

(i) Government of India is a signatory to the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Flora and Fauna (CITES) for control of illegal trade in wildlife items.

(ii) Bilateral agreements have been signed with Nepal and Republic of China for controlling trans-boundary illegal trade in wildlife.

(iii) A Global Tiger Forum of Tiger Range countries has been created for addressing international issues related to Tiger Conservation.

(c) The details of cases filed against hunters and poachers and the number of persons convicted in Karnataka during last five years are as under:

Sl. No.	Year	No. of cases booked	No. of persons convicted
1.	1997-1998	49	-
2.	1998-1999	44	1
3.	1999-2000	41	-
4.	2000-2001	19	-
5.	2001-2002	16	-

Fly-ash mandatory in construction

359. SHRI A. VIJAYA RAGHAVAN: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have taken decision to make the use of flyash mandatory in construction, road laying and reclamation within a specified areas;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) what are the amendments made in the 1999 notification to this effect?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI DILIP SINGH JUDEV): (a) to (c) A draft notification

for amending the Fly Ash Notification of 14th September, 1999 has been published on 5th November, 2002 inviting public objections/suggestions. The details of the proposed amendments with respect to use of fly-ash in construction, road laying and reclamation are as follows:

(1) All construction agencies engaged in the construction of building within 100 kms. from a coal or lignite based thermal power station, shall use ash based bricks/products to the tune of 100% by 31.12.2005.

(2) Use of fly ash will become mandatory in the construction of roads or flyover embankments except where it is not technically feasible.

(3) Filling up soil borrow areas for road construction with pond ash will become mandatory.

(4) Reclamation of low-lying areas with pond ash will become mandatory within 100 kms. of coal/lignite based thermal power station.

(5) The construction agencies shall make provisions for use of fly ash/fly ash based products in their schedule of approved materials, tender/technical documents.

Plan for forest cover

360. SHRI R.P. GOENKA: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a plan has been formulated to bring 33 per cent of the country's geographical area under forest cover by 2012, as against the existing forest cover of 19.3 per cent;

(b) if so, the details of the State-wise plans drawn up to achieve the desired target, as also the institutional framework contemplated for strengthening the forest management setup;

(c) whether it is true that a decision has also been taken to constitute a National Forest Commission; and

(d) if so, the details of the terms of reference for the proposed Commission, its composition and the present status of the proposal?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI DILIP SINGH JUDEV): (a) Yes, Sir. The Ministry